

# State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

**TONY KNOWLES**

Governor

P.O. Box 11001

Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

**NEWS RELEASE**



**Joe Perkins**

Commissioner

**907-465-3900**

**FAX: 907-586-8365**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 19, 2001

01-2531

## ***M/V Columbia* Returns to Service July 22** **Malaspina Returns to Daily Service in North Lynn Canal on July 24**

The Alaska Marine Highway System is happy to announce that the *M/V Columbia* will be back in service on Sunday, July 22 and all AMHS vessels will be back on their original summer schedules as of July 24. The *Columbia* was out of service longer than scheduled which significantly affected travel in Southeast Alaska during the peak travel season. The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) has adjusted other ships' schedules over the period to address the traveling needs of the public and made over 47,000 changes of customer reservations.

The *Columbia* returns to service after eight months of Capital Construction, which included replacement of the electrical switchboard and renovations of both cabin decks. These renovations will improve and increase overnight accommodations. The *Columbia* will be open to the public from noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, July 21 at the Ketchikan Ferry Terminal. All are invited to come aboard and view our newly renovated ship.

To accomplish this transition, the revised schedules of the *M/Vs Malaspina, Columbia, Aurora* and *Taku* will change as follows:

The *Malaspina* will arrive in Ketchikan on Sunday, July 22 at 7:00 a.m. and discharge the Bellingham northbound traffic that will be transferred to the *Columbia*. The *Columbia* will depart Ketchikan on its published schedule Sunday, July 22 at 8:45 a.m. The *Malaspina* will lay in Ketchikan until 5:15 p.m. Sunday and depart on the northbound *Taku* schedule to Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka (skipping Hoonah) arriving Juneau Tuesday, July 24 at 3:00 a.m. The *Malaspina* will begin the North Lynn Canal daily service at 7:00 a.m. Tuesday.

The *Aurora* will depart Ketchikan southbound to Prince Rupert at 11:30 p.m. Saturday, July 21, arriving Prince Rupert at 6:45 a.m. Sunday, July 22. The *Aurora* will depart Prince Rupert on the *Taku* schedule at 9:45 a.m. to Ketchikan where traffic continuing north will off load and transfer to the *Malaspina*. The *Aurora* will depart Ketchikan to Metlakatla at 3:45 p.m. (3 hours and 30 minutes late), returning to Ketchikan Sunday evening and departing for Hollis at 8:30 p.m. The *Aurora* will be back on its published schedule Monday, July 23 departing Hollis at 6:15 a.m.

The *Taku* will continue North Lynn Canal daily service through Monday, July 23, arriving Juneau at 11:00 p.m. The *Taku* will depart southbound on its published schedule Tuesday, July 24 at 8:45 a.m.

The Alaska Marine Highway regrets any inconveniences that have resulted from the loss of the *Columbia* thus far this summer. For additional details on the transition back to the original published Summer schedule or other scheduling questions, we encourage all travelers to visit the Alaska Marine Highway System web site: [www.alaska.gov/ferry](http://www.alaska.gov/ferry). Schedule and reservations assistance is also available by calling the System's Reservations Call Center: 1-800-642-0066 or 907-465-3941 or your local terminal or office.

###

Contact: Captain Norm Edwards, Operations Manager (907) 465-8815